



A MDNG Soldier is riding to the scene of a simulated emergency in a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter to assist local first responders in Exercise Vigilant Guard. Photo by Tech. Sgt. David Speicher, 175th Wing Public Affairs.

Maryland National Guard 'Vigilant' During Homeland Defense Exercise

by Maj. Kristine Henry, MDNG Public Affairs

Soldiers of the Maryland National Guard's 115th Military Police Battalion were among the first troops securing the scene at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, and six years later, some of these same Soldiers are fully engaged in a homeland defense exercise aimed at preparing for a potential repeat of that day's events – training they hope never to use.

It's called Exercise Vigilant Guard, and it's an annual training exercise sponsored by the National Guard Bureau at locations across the country.

"Exercises such as Vigilant Guard ensure the National Guard is as prepared as possible in order to respond to any contingency that may occur," said Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill, the adjutant general of Maryland. "Having Soldiers and Airmen who are trained, equipped and ready for domestic emergencies is at the heart of the National Guard mission."

The terrorist attack scenario unfolded over the course of the three-day exercise. The first two days were played out on computer screens and communication equipment at Joint Operations Center at Camp

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Martin O'Malley
Governor



Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor



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Lt. Governor

Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill
Adjutant General

TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE MARYLAND MILITARY DEPARTMENT:

Autumn is here and the high tempo of the Department's missions continues both in Maryland and overseas.

The 58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Maryland Army National Guard has completed its training at Fort Dix and is deployed in Iraq. The B Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment (Chinook) is deployed to Afghanistan. Please keep these Soldiers, Airmen and their families in your thoughts and prayers. We are fortunate to have home with us for the holidays the Aviation Depot Maintenance Roundout Unit (ADMUR) and the 29th Division Detachment K FOR8 of the Maryland Army National Guard and the 104th Fighter Squadron of the Maryland Air National Guard.

The Department hosted 33 staffers from Maryland's Congressional Delegation at Warfield Air National Guard Base in August. Representatives came from the offices of Sens. Barbara Mikulski and Ben Cardin, and Reps. Steny Hoyer, Dutch Ruppersburger, Elijah Cummings, and John Sarbanes, as well as members of Gov. Martin O'Malley's homeland security and legislative affairs team. The guests received briefings of the current status of each of the four pillars of the Maryland Military Department and had the opportunity to pose questions to our leadership. Their visit was important because it provided a better understanding of who we are and what we can do for Maryland and our country.

The Maryland National Guard completed its participation in "Exercise Vigilant Guard," a National Guard Bureau-sponsored exercise designed to enhance the preparedness of National Guard forces to perform missions associated with homeland defense and providing military support to civil authorities. Participants in the exercise came from all four branches of the Department and I was very pleased with what I saw.

On Sept. 6, we celebrated Unity Day. This was the second year of conducting this event which combined cultural/ethnic celebrations such as African-American History Month, Women's History Month, Asian-Pacific American History Month and other previously scheduled observances in a blended day-long celebration at the Fifth Regiment Armory. Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown delivered the keynote address and the event was a notable success.

The Maryland Emergency Management Agency assisted the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in conducting a three-day functional exercise designed to test Maryland's collective ability to respond to a statewide influenza pandemic. MEMA partially activated the State Emergency Operations Center in order to process information and requests for support, and its Joint Information Center to review and coordinate emergency public information. Maryland National Guard personnel were dispatched to the state delivery site of the National Strategic Stockpile to test their ability to receive, process and deliver critical medical supplies to distribution points for hospitals and health departments.

In July, a medical team of health care providers from the MDANG's 175th Medical Group and the Maryland Defense Force's 10th Medical Regiment deployed to the Rosebud Lakota Sioux Reservation to perform a humanitarian medical mission at the Indian Health Services Hospital. The team provided medical care for more than 4,000 residents of the reservation.

As we head into the holiday season, we face the challenge of protecting our love ones and properties from house fires. Make a plan to leave your home quickly in the event of a fire and make sure that the members of your family also know the plan. Take all precautions to ensure that you and your loved ones are safe. Each of you is irreplaceable to our organization and to your families as well.

We still have a lot of work to be done and we will continue to move forward. Take care of yourselves and your families. Godspeed.

Bruce F. Tuxill
Major General, MDANG
The Adjutant General

Unity Day

Story and photo by Spc. Loni Kingston, 29th MPAD



Unity Day is designed to enhance cross-cultural awareness and promote harmony among all members of the Maryland Military Department.

The Fifth Regiment Armory is normally a quiet, serene building, however on Unity Day 2007 this was not the case. More than 300 participants filled the room to engage in the annual celebration. Volunteers set up a cultural smorgasbord of food and entertainment for members of the Maryland Military Department to enjoy. Displays

were erected to showcase the significant contributions from African Americans, Asian Pacific Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians and Native Americans, just to name a few.

The celebration provided a great deal of entertainment for all to see. Belly dancers, sponsored by the Middle Eastern Americans, showed off their talent on stage and everyone was amused by the pasta eating contest, sponsored by the Italian

Americans.

Unity Day, however, represents so much more than food and fun facts. Unity Day is essentially a special ethnic observance day designed to, "enhance cross-cultural awareness and promote harmony among all members of the Maryland Military Department."

Initially, the Maryland Military Department had a separate celebration for each culture, said Lt. Col. Jan Burke, state equal employment manager and event coordinator for Unity Day.

The solution was to blend all the cultural observance days into one, so everyone had the chance to learn about the different cultures represented in the Maryland Military Department.

Burke borrowed this concept from her counterpart in New Jersey who had great success when implementing a joined, multicultural Unity Day.

When the New Jersey National Guard celebrated their Unity Day, Burke and her committee attended to get a few ideas. After overcoming many obstacles the first year, the second annual Unity Day was a success.

We learned a lot the first time around, and were able to cut the planning time down to seven months this year, said Burke. We still faced a few obstacles, but Unity Day 2007 was still very much a success.

Commissary For All Military Members

By Carrie Williams, DeCA

If you think you have to be married to shop the commissary, think again. You don't have to make a lifetime commitment to begin a lifetime of savings at the commissary. That's good news for young single service members who aren't ready to take the proverbial plunge.

"Commissaries are an essential part of the whole military community, and that's just one of the messages we want to deliver to all service members during Commissary Awareness Month in May," said Patrick Nixon, director and chief executive officer of the Defense Commissary Agency. "With extensive health and wellness sections, lean meats, fresh produce, organics and more, we offer 'healthy food at healthy savings' to all our customers – whether they are married or single."

Single service members can find all their toiletries, snacks, beverages, vitamins and personal care items at cost in their commissary. "The problem is too many service members wait until they get married or have children to start using the commissary regularly. They don't discover it as soon as they get into the service," said Nixon.

Once the savings of 30 percent or more over commercial grocery stores are "discovered" – why shop anywhere else? "The commissary benefit can save single military members more than \$1,000 a



Fresh produce is in abundant supply at the commissary.

year if they shop regularly at the commissary," said Nixon. "A family of four can save nearly \$3,000 a year."

You're ready to serve your country. Your commissary is ready to serve you.

"That's our most important mission," said Nixon. And 2007 Commissary Awareness Month activities include single service member tours to showcase commissary readiness to serve.

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MD National Guard 'Vigilant' During Homeland Defense Exercise

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UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters of the MDARNG arrive near M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore to deliver MDNG Soldiers responding to a simulated emergency. Photo by Master Sgt. Lou Deveaux, 175th Wing Public Affairs.

Fretterd Military Reservation in Reisterstown, Md., primarily testing the Maryland National Guard's ability to coordinate and interoperate with other state and local agencies.



Members of the 32nd Civil Support team of the Maryland National Guard test a suspicious package during Exercise Vigilant Guard. . Photo by Tech. Sgt. David Speicher, 175th Wing Public Affairs.

Using simulated reports – “notional injects” in exercise parlance – from a variety of sources, the scenario unfolded. First a truck bomb collapses a span of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge during rush hour traffic. Next, a bomb explodes at the on a rail line, derailing a train near Baltimore-Washington International Airport. As public concern spreads, traffic approaches gridlock and telephone lines become overwhelmed. Suspected terrorists next fire an anti-tank rocket at a train

in downtown Baltimore, followed by a shoot-out with city police, who find a suspicious white powder in their vehicle near the M&T Bank Stadium.

With local responders overwhelmed, the situation becomes serious enough to require the military assistance, and Gov. Martin O'Malley calls out the National Guard.

This third day of events is no longer just notional; it is full of action as National Guard troops, Baltimore City Police Department, Baltimore City Fire Department and other local first responders swing into action and actually implement their response in downtown Baltimore.

A cloud of debris rises from a parking lot in downtown Baltimore as Maryland National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters land near the stadium and begin to disgorge Soldiers from the Initial Reaction Force of the 115th Military Police Battalion. Soon the Guardsman have assessed the situation and deployed their forces, setting up checkpoints and patrolling the streets.

Meanwhile, Soldiers and Airmen of 32nd Civil Support Team, who specialize in detecting nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, don

blue HAZMAT suits and attempt to analyze materials at the scene.

For added realism, the whole operation is under the scrutiny of “mock media” – reporters and news cameramen role-played by members of the Maryland National Guard and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency.

As the military police and HAZMAT teams work to contain the situation, public affairs professionals of the 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment and the 175th Wing form a Joint Media Operations Center to respond to reporters' questions and increase the flow of information to a worried public.

In the end, the scene is secured and the threat identified.

More importantly, the goal of the exercise is met: to prepare for the worst. As Vigilant Guard came to a close, Col. Pete Hinz, the joint task force commander reflected on the overall intent of the exercise.

“Although this was a National Guard Bureau sponsored event, Vigilant Guard really encapsulated some of Gov. O'Malley's 12 Homeland Security Goals. Three of the main goals we exercised here today were interoperability amongst many of the first responders, hazardous material recovery and training, training, training,” he said. “We have learned a lot from this exercise and will use these lessons learned to continue to improve our homeland readiness here in Maryland.”



Mock reporter Katie Leaban of MEMA interviews a MDNG Soldier during Exercise Vigilant Guard. Photo by 1st Lt. Wayde Minami, 175th Wing Public Affairs.

Military Department Supports Pandemic Flu Exercise

By Quentin Banks, MDMILDEP Public Affairs

Photos by Specialist Elizabeth Jones, MDNG Public Affairs



Katie Leaban, team leader for Joint Information Center.

Healthcare providers in Maryland staged a three-day functional exercise to test Maryland's collective ability to respond to a statewide influenza pandemic Jul. 31 through Aug. 2.

An influenza pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus appears and the human population has no immunity. The result can be simultaneous epidemics worldwide which can lead to great numbers of illness and deaths. Because of the increase in global transport and communications, urbanization and overcrowded living conditions, outbreaks of a new strain of influenza virus are likely to spread around the world quickly.

The multi-jurisdictional, multi-organizational exercise involved the participation of health departments, law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services, a variety of state and local agencies and hospitals at the state and local levels. The lead agency for the exercise was the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, with the Maryland Military Department providing significant support.

The exercise scenario involved a new strain of human influenza that had been identified in the Far East, which spread quickly through human-to-human

contact. In the scenario, the virus, which caused severe illness and deaths, began to appear in locations throughout the United States. Maryland's medical surveillance system had alerted health-care providers to suspected cases in the state which were awaiting laboratory confirmation.

With large numbers of people becoming ill, the expected impact on daily living became extreme. Hospitals and other medical facilities became overwhelmed with sick people. Transportation systems delivering goods and services failed due to lack of people to run them. State and local governments began to examine their ability to protect the public and provide services when their staff was reduced.

In response, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) partially activated the State Emergency Operations Center in order to process information and requests for support that resulted from the situations presented in the scenarios. MEMA also activated its Joint Information Center to review and coordinate emergency public information.



Front view of the Joint Operations Center during Pandemic Flu exercise, August 1, 2007.

Maryland National Guard personnel were dispatched to the state delivery site of the National Strategic Stockpile in northern Maryland to test their ability to receive, process and deliver critical medical supplies to distribution points for hospital and health departments.

Many aspects of the exercise were unique and innovative. For the first time,



Master Sgt. Ronald Pitts (left) mans the Rumor Control center of the Joint Operations Center, and Quentin Banks (right), MDMILDEP Director of Public Affairs holds the role of the JIC Staffer.

Maryland's Community Emergency Response Teams were used to conduct needs assessments as part of implementing home quarantine and community containment measures. Another aspect was the ability of hospitals to reconfigure their facilities to handle anticipated patient surge. Other exercise tasks included testing the state's ability to receive and distribute medical supplies to critical personnel and hospitals, and activation of and communications with emergency operations centers. MEMA had the opportunity to use its Web EOC management system, which has had some changes.

Overall, the exercise was a good opportunity to examine what will work and what needs to be improved. Pandemic influenza has struck the United States three times in the past 100 years. The worst of the three was the 1918 Influenza Pandemic (also called the Spanish Flu), which killed 50 million people worldwide, including an estimated 675,000 people in the United

States. The Spanish Flu first appeared in Maryland at Camp Meade, Md., in September 1918. By October, there were more than 7,000 cases in Baltimore alone, resulting in nearly 2,000 deaths. A similar pandemic today could spread farther and faster and prove more deadly.

Air Guard to the Rescue after Peru Quake

By 1st Lt. Wayde Minami, 175th Wing Public Affairs

Two crews from the Maryland Air National Guard's 135th Airlift Squadron found themselves unexpectedly pressed into service following an 8.0-magnitude earthquake in Peru Aug. 15.

"They said, 'an earthquake happened and we need you in Peru,'" said Tech. Sgt. Will Morales, a loadmaster assigned to the 135th Airlift Squadron, based in Baltimore.

In response, two Maryland C-130s, which were deployed as part of a regular Coronet Oak airlift rotation in San Juan, Puerto Rico, supporting the U.S. Southern Command, were sent down-range to assist in the relief effort.

The airlifters' first stop was Soto Cano Air Base in Honduras, where they picked up a mobile surgical team and other emergency personnel and supplies. Then it was on to Pisco, Peru, about 25 miles from the epicenter of the earthquake and the hub of earthquake relief operations.

Lt. Col. Gordon Kinney, an aircraft commander during the mission, described the scene in Pisco.

"I don't think I saw any housing with roofs left intact," he said. At the airport, "rows and rows of coffins" were stacked "six and eight high" to bury the dead.

"The ramp at Pisco was more like an aircraft carrier than an airport," said Lt. Col. David Deborger, who commanded the first aircraft to arrive. "There were people, vehicles and airplanes in constant motion at all times, and the ramp was very crowded."



Tech. Sgt. Wilbert Morales and Senior Airman Brandon Krantz, both loadmasters from the Maryland Air National Guard, help Peruvian aid workers unload blankets from a C-130 aircraft Aug. 18, 2007, in Pisco, Peru, in the aftermath of an 8.0 magnitude earthquake that struck the area Aug. 15. Photo by US Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Lock.

"They worked like they knew something, somehow really depended on their efforts," Kinney said.

The Marylanders' tactical training and combat experience paid unexpected dividends when Deborger's crew was able to

use night vision goggles to land at Pisco, an airfield normally only useable during the daytime. The 135th crews had garnered significant experience in NVG operations while flying missions into remote airfields in Iraq and Afghanistan and were able to put that experience to good use.

The 135th Hercs quickly got into a rhythm, shuttling people and cargo between Pisco and Peru's capital, Lima.

The lack of space at the airport in Pisco meant the Maryland C-130 crews spent their nights in Lima, where they experienced a number of earthquake aftershocks. While the flying time between the two cities was relatively short – 50 minutes – a lack of materiel handling equipment at both locations meant that everything had to be loaded and unloaded by hand, resulting in long days of heavy manual labor.

In all, the Marylanders transported more than 121 tons of cargo and 132 passengers for earthquake relief.

"The USA always responds to disasters like this, anywhere on the planet. It's what we do," Deborger said. "As a member of the crew, it's very fulfilling, knowing that we are providing help to people who are in great need of it."

Maryland Dispatches Blackhawks in Anticipation of Hurricane Dean

AUSTIN ARMY AVIATION SUPPORT FACILITY, Austin, Texas – Ten Maryland Soldiers responded rapidly to a no-notice mission in August in anticipation of possible relief missions related to Hurricane Dean.

Eight Maryland Army National Guard aviators from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment and two medics from Company C, 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment departed Aug. 17 for a staging area at Jacksonville, Fla., in response to computer projections that Hurricane Dean would strike the island territory of Puerto Rico.

The Soldiers from Edgewood, Md., were prepared to employ rescue hoists, conduct search-and-rescue operations and re-supply displaced citizens with food and water, said Staff Sgt. Kelly D. Thomas, a member of the 224th Aviation Regiment.

The team repositioned westward after the hurricane missed Puerto Rico and veered towards Texas. Chief Warrant Officer Michael Fedor said the Guardsmen were "glad to help out" with any potential hurricane relief missions.

"Texas Guard Soldiers relieved us from our tour in Iraq," Fedor said. "It is nice to be able to come down and return the favor by giving these folks a hand."

The Marylanders were based at Balad airbase in Iraq between October 2005 and October 2006.

Fortunately for all involved here, Hurricane Dean's path spared Texas, landing instead in largely uninhabited portions of Mexico on Aug. 20. Later that day, the Guardsmen received word to stand down and prepare for movement back to their home station. "The fact that we didn't need to go in after all means that a lot of people aren't suffering because of the destructive impact from a hurricane," said Chief Warrant Officer Robert J. Berdanier, a pilot with the 224th Aviation Regiment. "That's not a bad thing."

"This was a good training event for us, exercising our logistics capability to move this distance on short notice," Added Chief Warrant Officer Albert B. Isennock, also of the 224th. "We'll take back some important lessons learned – such as best use of satellite telephones for communication and additional 'dunker' training for crew members. This will allow us to prepare even better for the next time we're needed."

Homefront Challenge Helps Kids Learn, Make Friends

By Specialist Elizabeth Jones, MDNG Public Affairs

Photos by Beth Stoddard, MDNG Family Readiness

The Maryland National Guard's Child and Youth Program completed its second annual "Homefront Challenge" youth camp at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation in Reisterstown, Md., June 29.

Eighty-five children, ranging in age from 8 to 18, participated in this year's camp. The event, which is one of three programs designed and facilitated by the Maryland Family Readiness Program, provides an opportunity for children of both Maryland Air and Army National Guardsmen to get to know each other and make friends.

"It is important for kids to connect and

relate to each other in order to know that they are not alone while their parents are away from home,"

said Theresa Stoddard, the State Youth Coordinator. "They need time to talk through their fears with a friend, someone who can identify and connect through similar experiences."

Activities included sports, hiking, fishing, visits to local National Guard facilities and a tour of a military helicopter, which provided kids time to learn about themselves, each other and the military.

"While these children may live in communities



Darius Thompson and Alvin On create woodworking projects at camp.



A young MDNG family member tries on combat gear.

throughout the state, the one thing they all have in common is that they're a part of the larger Maryland National Guard family," said Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill, the adjutant general of Maryland. "Just as their parents have made a commitment to defend our nation and state, so too are we committed to being there for the families of our citizen-soldiers and airmen. This camp, which stresses the bond shared by the children of Guard members, is just one small part of that."

Closing ceremonies held June 29 were attended by Maryland Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown.

Youth Appreciation Day

Photos and Story by Specialist Jennifer Sardam, 29th MPAD

On July 14, military and government employees and their families gathered at the 5th Regiment Armory in Baltimore for the first Maryland National Guard Youth Day.

There, children and their parents, with the support of individuals and organizations from the local community, explored technology, science and math through a number of mobile, interactive exhibits.

Maj. Mark A. Ritter, a psychiatrist with the Maryland Defense Force, first proposed the event as an avenue to introduce some family fun into the lives of those separated by overseas deployments.

He feels that even Soldiers deployed far from home can indirectly benefit from these types of family support activities. I consider providing support to the children of military members to be an integral part of caring for the deployed Soldier, said Ritter. "Soldiers typically want to know that their families are taken



A MDNG family member answers questions at the Science of Racing exhibit.



An exhibitor assists a young MDNG family member after a trip through an igloo-shaped planetarium.

care of and [because of that] are going to have a much better deployment."

Ritter first approached The Science of Racing, a nonprofit foundation based in Rockville, Md., to request their participation in the event.

Science of Racing volunteers regularly go to schools and attend similar events to educate as they entertain kids on topics such as Newton's Three Laws of Motion.

Using a racecar to demonstrate these concepts provides an effective way to hold the attention of an audience of kids.

"This is our way of giving back to the community," said Science of Racing volunteer Paul W. Lee.

Nearby, kids and parents sang and danced with local children's entertainer, Pam Minor, viewed a robotics demonstration in action and learned how to spot constellations in the night sky while inside a portable planetarium and much more.

Ritter hopes to see this event continue and grow larger within the community. "I want to make sure the children are not left out of the equation. They're as much a part of the Soldier and a Soldier's work than what the Soldier does in theater."

Maryland Army National Guard Aviation Company Deploys

BALTIMORE, May 29, 2007 – Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment deployed May 29, 2007, in preparation for service in the Global War on Terrorism. The company initially deployed to Fort Carson, Colo., and includes approximately 50 Soldiers from around the state.

The unit, which flies CH-47 “Chinook” helicopters, is stationed at Weide Army Airfield, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. The CH-47 is the Army’s medium-lift helicopter. It can carry up to 19,500 pounds of personnel, vehicles and equipment. The unit has flown CH-47s since 2005.

The Soldiers spent approximately three months at Fort Carson conducting specialized training intended to prepare them for flying in mountainous high-altitude terrain prior to deploying overseas. They are expected to be mobilized for a total of 12 months.

There are approximately 1,180 members of the Maryland National Guard currently deployed in support of the Global War on Terror and other missions across the nation and around the world. Since Sept. 11, 2001, approximately 6,500 Maryland Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen have been mobilized and deployed.

Maryland Brigade Assumes Iraqi Mission From Indiana

By Sgt. S. Patrick McCollum
58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

VICTORY BASE, Iraq— It is an old Army tradition marking one unit leaving and another taking its place. The flag of one unit is ceremoniously rolled and covered by a thin green case, while the flag of another is taken out of its case and displayed. With this action, authority has symbolically been transferred.

In a July 10 ceremony, the 38th Division Support Command (DISCOM), Indiana National Guard, handed responsibility for garrison operations of Victory Base Complex, Iraq, to the 58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Maryland National Guard, who unfurled the cross-and-bayonet banner symbolizing their new authority.

“Our vision is to maintain an environment where the Soldier sees Victory Base Complex as a place of sanctuary,” said Col. Sean Casey, the commander of the 58th IBCT, said in his first remarks as garrison commander. “Where the commander is relieved of the burden of day-to-day garrison issues, where the Soldier is safe and comfortable.”

The 58th IBCT is working hand-in-hand with active duty units to fulfill this vision. They are responsible for the facilities and daily operations of five separate camps inside Victory including Camp Slayer, Camp Striker, Camp Victory and Camps Liberty East and West. These contain more than 50,000 service members and civilians. Various mayoral cells will be responsible for managing the living situations for the residents of their camps, including water, power, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.



Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Sann, left, brigade sergeant major for the 58th Brigade Combat Team, left, and Col. Sean Casey, commander of the 58th BCT, uncase the unit's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony in which the 58th BCT assumed responsibility for garrison operations of Victory Base Complex, Iraq, from the 38th Division Support Command, Tuesday, July 10, 2007. The 58th BCT will be responsible for all daily operations on VBC. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy. Photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy.

“To the 3rd ID and 1st Cav: You are demanding, difficult tenants, and we love you,” said Col. Marjorie Courtney, the outgoing garrison commander. She went on to ask that tenants continue to hold the mayors to a high standard during the 58th IBCT’s tenure.

The Transfer of Authority included a personal touch as Casey presented Courtney with a flag that was flown over Camp Victory as well as a 58th IBCT coin to show his appreciation for the guidance the 38th DISCOM had given his unit during a nine-day transition period. Learning from them, he said, made the transition that much smoother.

“Through their support and mentoring we have a thorough understanding of the keys to success at VBC,” Casey said.

With the ceremony finished, the hand-over was complete. The members of the 38th DISCOM, after a year in Iraq, will return to Indiana to till the fields of civilian life now that the 58th IBCT has picked up their sword.

Marylanders Provide Care at Indian Reservation

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Rob Barker, 29th MPAD

Over the years, National Guard units have deployed to respond to state and national emergencies and overseas operations, but one Maryland unit was recently called upon to fight a different kind of battle.

From July 9 to 23, Airmen of the Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Medical Group from Warfield Air National Guard Base in Middle River, Md., along with members of the Maryland Defense Force recently traveled to the Sioux Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota to provide much-needed medical services to reservation residents.

The National Guard was augmented by a team of seven physicians and a psychiatric clinical specialist from the Maryland Defense Force's 10th Medical Regiment based in Pikesville, Maryland.



Master Sgt. Dan Smith, medical equipment repair specialist, inspects the lab facilities at the Indian Reservation.

Working at the Rosebud Comprehensive Health Care Facility in Rosebud, S.D., the service members provided many different types of services to numerous patients including dental, optometry, emergency room and pharmaceutical. The unit also provided veterinary care to animals on the Rosebud Indian Reservation.

"We have a wide assortment of medical services and they'll all treat their own

numbers of patients," said Master Sgt. Kenneth M. Clark, a public health technician with the 175th. "We are out here to take care of their backlog; to do the things that they just don't have time or personnel to do themselves."

Clark said the group saw a couple hundred patients but they were prepared for the two-week mission. This is not the group's first time doing this type of mission.

"We've been to Bosnia. We've been to Peru," said Clark. "We've been to Belize and Honduras. Our unit does a lot of humanitarian work."

While the unit members enjoy traveling overseas and feel it is rewarding many of them see the need to stay in the United States.

"It makes me feel great. I love doing

this kind of stuff," said Lt. Col. Rita M. Kurek, a dental surgeon with the 175th. "There is a great need for it. Our unit, especially, has been to a lot of different places."

Kurek added that she was especially happy to be helping Americans here at home.

Master Sgt. John W. Wissman III, first sergeant of the medical group, agreed.

"We're now helping our own people," he



Lt. Col. Randy Brown, commander of the 175th Medical Group (left) and first sergeant of the 175th, Master Sgt. John W. Wissman, vaccinate a cat at the reservation.

said. "We're helping citizens of the United States instead of going outside of the country."

Working domestically also was beneficial to the unit in meeting its training objectives. Members of the MDDF gained operational experience in working in with military healthcare providers.

"This deployment provided our medical personnel the opportunity to exercise their professional skills in a challenging remote environment, similar to what one might find during a civil emergency, while at the same time building closer ties and exercising interoperability with our colleagues in the National Guard," said MDDF Col. Bob Barish, commander of the 10th Medical Regiment. "This is our role: to provide competent technical and professional support to the National Guard."

Wissman pointed out that because the unit was working within the United States, there was "no language barrier" and unit didn't have to spend as much time traveling as in the past.

The experience of working together as a unit is priceless, with the interaction helping develop the newer members of the group.

"It helps us hone in on our own skills and it gives us real world experience," said Wissman. "This allows the newer Airmen we have to interact with the most experienced members of the unit."

"It's giving me a lot more confidence than I've ever had," said Airmen 1st Class Erica A. Morga, a medical service technician with the 175th. "I had a really big fear of blood and needles. I've overcome that in the last few days."

The Reef-X - Annual Training

Story and Photos by Master Sgt. Ron Pitts, MDNG Public Affairs

McCrady Training Center, S.C. – Cans, bottles, paper and cardboard. That's what most people think of when they think of recycling. But how about tanks and armored personnel carriers?

Sixty-three members of the Maryland Army National Guard's 1229th Transportation Company at Cade Armory in Baltimore recently got a first-hand look at just such a project during 15 days of annual training in South Carolina.

From July 3 to 15, the 1229th, along with the South Carolina Guard's 1052nd Transportation Company and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, took part in the construction of an offshore artificial reef using stripped surplus armored vehicles as building material.

The Reef-X – short for “reef exercise” – project was instituted in 1997. It creates habitat for marine life and facilitates recreational fishing.

This year, with the help of the Maryland Guardsmen, Reef-X transported some 212 decommissioned M-113 armored personnel carriers and over two miles of concrete pipe to the Port of Charleston.

The APCs and concrete pipes will in turn be taken by barges to over 40 different sites off the South Carolina coast to make artificial reefs. The reefs are popular destinations for recreational anglers and divers.

The Maryland Soldiers say they got a lot out of the training.

“It was great,” said Sgt. James Fleming, supply sergeant for the 1229th. “It helped us train for our wartime mission while doing something to help the environment

at the same time.”

Project Reef-X is part of the Army's Innovation Readiness Training Program. Citizen-Soldiers support eligible civilian organizations by combining required wartime training with community support projects. Soldiers obtain the training they need while providing communities with valuable assistance in completing beneficial civilian projects.

In addition to their contribution to the Reef-X project, the 1229th filled their 15-day schedule with several special training activities, such as preparing and verifying load plans, convoy operations, engagement skills, basic rifle marksmanship individual weapons qualification, crew served weapons training and familiarization, drivers training and refresher skills and updating driver records.



In joint operations Maryland's 1229th Transportation Company and South Carolina's 1052nd Transportation Company unload some of the 30,000 tons of concrete pipe that will help build over 40 reefs off of the South Carolina shore at the Charleston, S.C., port.



Specialist Charles F. Mallon Jr., a member of the 1229th Transportation Company, loading some of the 30,000 tons of concrete pipes for over 40 new reef habitats off the South Carolina shore.



Maryland Guardsman Sgt. Wanda R. Harris of the 1229th Transportation Company (left) and Specialist Antawn Brunson, a member of South Carolina's 1052nd Transportation Company, secure some of the 30,000 tons of concrete pipe for the new reef habitat off the South Carolina shore.

Maryland Guardsman Receives Major Award

By 1st Lt. Wayde Minami, 175th Wing Public Affairs



Chief Master Sgt. Terry M. Allen.

The Maryland National Guard announced in July that one of its members has been selected to receive a prestigious national award.

Chief Master Sgt. Terry M. Allen, of Bel Air, Md., has been selected as the winner of the Air Force Association's annual “Chief Master Sgt. Dick Red Award.”

The award recognizes exceptional technical expertise in aircraft maintenance, leadership in the unit, contributions to unit training, and improvement of equipment capability, reliability and maintainability.

Allen is aircraft maintenance supervi-

sor for the 175th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Warfield Air National Guard Base in Middle River, Md. He is only the second Maryland National Guard member ever to receive the award. The first was Chief Master Sgt. William Youngworth, who was the 1991 recipient.

“Words cannot express the pride I feel when a member of the Maryland National Guard receives this level of recognition,” said Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill, the adjutant general of Maryland. “Chief Allen is the perfect example of the quality of the men and women who serve in the Maryland National Guard.”

Civil Air Patrol, Military Department Formalize Relationship

By Capt. Brenda Reed, CAP Public Affairs

The Civil Air Patrol's Maryland Wing joined the Maryland Military Department to formally sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) during a recent ceremony held at the adjutant general's office in Baltimore.

Maj. Gen. Bruce Tuxill, Adjutant General of Maryland, and Col. Gerard Weiss, Maryland Wing commander, signed the document which formalizes the agreement to support each other in accomplishing their respective missions.

For many years, the two organizations have supported one another without a formal agreement. The Maryland National Guard provides logistic and personnel for the CAP's annual Tri-Wing Encampment, along with providing cadets with orientation flights in C-130s and base tours. Warfield Air National Guard base provides ramp space for the CAP's GA-8 Airvan and allows the CAP to use their facilities as needed for functions such as the cadet ball and Cadet Advisory Council picnic. In addition, the Guard assists the Maryland Wing with legislative support for funding.

"I continue to be impressed by the professionalism our volunteer members display while working side by side with our Army and Air National Guard counterparts," said CAP Maj. Joe Winter, Maryland Wing director of cadet programs and military liaison officer. "The dedication of our members helps ease the stress of the Guard members who are deployed all around the world."

Maryland Wing cadets especially enjoy working alongside the National Guard, providing them with direct exposure to the military lifestyle and career opportunities.

"Our partnership with the Maryland Military Department has led to numerous enlistments of our cadet members in both the Air and Army National Guard," Winter said. "Our cadets look up to our hometown heroes and often report back to us that

they were motivated to join the Guard by the experience they received while working alongside members of the Guard and interacting with them during our annual Tri-Wing Encampment. Our partnership with the Military Department should serve as a benchmark for CAP Wing and state guards throughout the country."

In return, the Maryland Wing provides ongoing support to the dining hall, family days, and welcome home and special ceremonies. Homeland Security missions on behalf of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency are performed during the summer months with the annual Bay Patrol and Bay Bridge Patrols.

"Our cadet and officer members proudly volunteer countless hours to support our Air and Army National Guard members and they continue to stand ready in additional tasking while at the same time performing our numerous state, region, and national missions tasked to us as CAP members in the Maryland Wing," Winter said.

The U.S. Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, was founded on Dec. 1, 1941, less than a week before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor brought the U.S. into World War II. The CAP is a nonprofit organization with more than 55,000 members nationwide. The organization's members perform 95 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions, as tasked by the Air Force's Rescue Coordination Center, and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 58 lives in 2006. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counterdrug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. Members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the more than 22,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet program.

There are approximately 1,300 CAP members in Maryland. For information about the Maryland Wing of CAP, visit <http://mdcap.org>.

Hoyer Hosts 5th Congressional District Military Dinner

By Quentin Banks, MDMILDEP Public Affairs

Photos by Airman 1st Class Renae L. Kleckner, Andrews AFB Public Affairs



Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill, The Adjutant General of Maryland, presents Congressman Steny H. Hoyer a Minuteman statuette in recognition of his support of the Maryland National Guard.

Rep. Steny H. Hoyer, representing Maryland's 5th Congressional District, hosted a dinner July 20 at Andrews Air Force Base Golf Course club house for Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the regular components, the Maryland National Guard and the reserves. Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill, the adjutant general of Maryland, introduced Hoyer to an audience of approximately 60 military personnel and their spouses. The congressman used the occasion to hold a public discussion of issues of concern to members of the armed forces, many of whom had previously been deployed in combat areas. Issues that were discussed included health care, military equipment, frequency of deployments, discussions of the cultures encountered overseas and finances.



Congressman Steny H. Hoyer mugs for the camera with Staff Sgt. Thomas Kelly, a member of the Maryland Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment.

THE LECTERN

Consider Joining the Chaplain Team

By Chaplain (Col.) Sean Lee

The Maryland Military Department has the unique and diverse resource of three components to provide support to our soldiers, airmen and their families. The Maryland Defense Force, Maryland Air National Guard and Maryland Army National Guard chaplains and chaplain assistants work together as a nearly seamless team to provide support as needed or requested for all of our Guard members and their dependents.

Each of the three team members brings unique perspectives and sometimes unique abilities to the common operating environment of traditional drill weekends, state missions, and homeland defense/homeland security missions. When deployed outside the United States in a federal status the Maryland Army and Maryland Air Guard chaplains and assistants retain

and utilize their service component specific methods and parameters of operation, but while here in the state or nation we they all work together to accomplish the shared mission.

Every year the chaplains and assistants of the Maryland Military Department gather for training together in common skills and competencies, so they can work interchangeably when required. The training is planned and sponsored by the Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) Chaplain's Office. Throughout the year this allows the JFHQ chaplain to utilize any and all Maryland Military Department chaplains and assistants to provide for the religious support and ensure the religious expression of every Maryland Guard member, as well as provide spiritual counsel and support in traditional and emergency situations.

As an extension of the ministry capability of the Maryland Military Department chaplains and assistants are 39 "Partners in Care" congregations that have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Maryland National Guard allowing for referral of Guard members and their families for support in time of crisis or need. These congregations have been a tremendous source of support to scores of Maryland's Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen.

Any clergy or congregation interested in serving as a chaplain, chaplain assistant, or Partner in Care congregation is welcome to contact Chaplain (Col.) Sean Lee at 410-576-6124, or william.sean.lee@us.army.mil for more information.

Chaplains Bring Guidance, Counsel to Future National Guard Officers

By Maj. (MD) Robert Hastings, MDDF Public Affairs

Two Chaplains from the Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) recently spent their summer vacation supporting the Maryland Army National Guard's Officer Candidate School at Camp Fretterd, in Reisterstown, Md.

For two weeks in June, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles Nalls and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Anthony Hollis, both assigned to Headquarters, MDDF, supported the two-week training exercise for Maryland's Officer Candidate School (OCS) phase one.

"The National Guard and Defense Force personnel worked as a seamless team throughout the exercise," explained Nalls. "The MDDF chaplains are the dedicated chaplain support for the 70th Regiment."

OCS is a mentally and physically challenging course designed to educate and train enlisted soldiers to serve as federally commissioned officers in the National Guard. The program is conducted in sev-

eral phases. Phase one is two weeks long and focuses on military leadership, Army operations, planning and conducting training, and land navigation. One week is spent in the field and one week in garrison.

During the two-week training, the chaplains conducted worship services and accompanied the students in all aspects of their training.

"OCS is designed to be strenuous," said Nalls. "We're growing leaders that need to be able to think and act under stress. One of the roles of military chaplains is to monitor that stress and to counsel young soldiers on how to deal with it, for both themselves and those they lead."

Nalls is the director of MDDF's Chaplain Services which currently has a strength of 10 chaplains and two chaplain's assistants and is growing.

"Our goal is to reach 20 chaplains and 20 assistants," added Nalls. "We support

Soldiers and Airmen of all faiths, and are recruiting chaplains from across the faiths as well."

Support to annual training is just one of many missions undertaken by the MDDF Chaplain's Corps. Additionally, they provide a wide variety of support to National Guard units including spiritual counseling during unit training, deployment and welcome home ceremonies; counseling for families of deployed Guardsmen; and post deployment stress counseling. Additionally, Chaplain Nalls deployed to Louisiana in support of Hurricane Katrina Operations. In late 2006, MDDF chaplains were mobilized to provide support at BWI airport as hundreds of Americans returned to the U.S. after being evacuated from Lebanon.

Maryland Army Guard Takes Third Place In Erna Raid Competition

By Staff Sgt. Howard K. Hodges, 29th MPAD

TALLIN, Estonia, Aug. 11, 2007 – A U.S. military team composed entirely of members of the Maryland Army National Guard recently took third place among international countries in what is billed as “world’s longest and most difficult military competition.”

Members of the Maryland National Guard comprised one of 28 teams that participated in the six grueling days of competition held over 1,000 square kilometers of northern Estonia.

With the military delegations of nine countries standing together in formation, the 14th annual Erna Raid competition, considered one of the world’s longest and most difficult military competitions, kicked off in Estonia’s capital city of Tallinn Aug. 6.

Represented at this year’s competition

were the United States, Germany, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Czech Republic, Portugal and Estonia. In addition, China and Romania sent official observers.

Members of the Maryland Army National Guard represented the United States during the competition. Maryland and Estonia have been partners for 14 years in the National Guard’s State Partnership Program.

The purpose of the State Partnership Program, according to the U.S. Embassy in Estonia, is “to strengthen military-to-military contacts between the United States military and the military of Estonia, which had only achieved independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.”

The six-day military competition involved 28 four-man teams competing

over a 1,000-square-kilometer course filled with difficult terrain. Competition started with an amphibious assault landing and then continued with day and night military orienteering combined with individual and vehicle obstacle courses, rifle marksmanship, knife throwing, urban combat, negotiating simulated minefields and the mining of bridges, medical casualty response, a 10-kilometer run and other tasks. Competitors were afforded little opportunity to rest.

The U.S. team finished third among international teams this year, matching last year’s results. The team ranked 15th in this year’s overall competition, edging out the team from Denmark.

MDMILDEP Hosts Maryland Congressional Delegation Staff

By Quentin Banks, MDMILDEP Public Affairs

Photo by Specialist Elizabeth Jones, MDNG Public Affairs

On Aug. 13, during the summer recess, 33 staffers from Maryland’s Congressional Delegation accepted an invitation from Maj. Gen Bruce Tuxill, the adjutant general of Maryland to visit the Maryland Military Department.

Representatives from the offices of Sens. Barbara Mikulski and Ben Cardin, and Reps. Steny Hoyer, Dutch Ruppersburger, Elijah Cummings, and John Sarbanes were welcomed by Tuxill and his staff at Warfield Air National Guard Base in Middle River, Md. Also attending were members of Gov. Martin O’Malley’s homeland security and federal policy staff team.

Some arrived by a Maryland Air National Guard C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft, some arrived by Maryland Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter and others drove. The guests received briefings of the current status of each of the four branches of the Maryland

Military Department and had the opportunity to pose questions to General Tuxill and his top commanders.

“The visit of these members of Maryland’s Congressional delegation staff is important because it is vital that they come away from their time with us with a better understanding of who we are and what we can do for Maryland and our country,” said Tuxill. “Just as my staff keeps me informed of important issues that affect the Maryland Military Department...these staffers keep their respective leaders informed of important issues that impact Maryland. We have an important story to



Maj. April Walker, a pilot with the Maryland Air National Guard’s 135th Airlift Squadron, points out some of the features of the C-130J to Heather Campbell, a congressional staffer from Sen. Ben Cardin’s office.

tell and these are the folks that need to hear it.”

The staffers toured static displays of equipment and aircraft found in the MDMILDEP inventory. They also received orientation flights on the C-130J aircraft and the UH-60 helicopter.

The “Fifth” AVCRAD

By Master Sgt. Anne W. Trainer, 29th MPAD

Army aviation is the same whether you are active duty, National Guard, or Reserve. National Guard pilots fly the same helicopters as active duty pilots and active duty aircraft mechanics have the same training that National Guard mechanics do. There is, however, one very big difference between the two. In the entire Army there are four Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depots and one Headquarters, Aviation Depot Maintenance Round-Out Unit and they are all in the National Guard.

To be more accurate, there used to be four AVCRADs and one HQ ADMRU; however, by 2006 the four AVCRADs had each deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and with the deployment cycle about to come full circle it was time to validate a new concept in Army aviation logistics and create the “fifth” AVCRAD.

By bringing together HQ ADMRU, located on the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, and Aviation Intermediate Maintenance experienced Soldiers from 16 states,

including Maryland, a “fifth” AVCRAD was officially formed on July 11, 2006 and became Task Force AVCRAD currently deployed here.

What makes the transition of the ADMRU into the “fifth” AVCRAD noteworthy is that the ADMRU is not an organic AVCRAD. “Col. Peterson, who was the commander several times back, called this a graduate level organization,” said Col. Timothy Gowan, Commander of HQ ADMRU and TF AVCRAD. “No one outside of aviation, actually no one even outside of HQ ADMRU, seems to know what we do.”

As a rank heavy command and control cell more used to developing concepts of operations, allocating resources, and providing necessary coordination to accomplish the mission; “graduate level organization” would certainly seem an appropriate description.

Don’t let that description fool you though; this “fifth” AVCRAD has proven as TF AVCRAD, they are much more than a graduate level organization of developers and planners.

Over the course of the last year TF



Members of the ADMRU evaluate the maintenance schedule to determine priorities. Photo by Master Sgt. Anne W. Trainer, 29th MPAD.

AVCRAD Fix Forward teams were sent to bases in Iraq and Afghanistan to provide direct depot level maintenance and AVIM support to the Combat Aviation Brigades in theatre resulting in more than 28,000 man-hours of direct support to units, a direct increase of 30 percent over previous rotations.

A few of their other accomplishments include completing more than 5,800 separate work orders; producing over 1,400 aviation components under the National Maintenance Program with a serviceable credit value of \$116.7 million; executing in excess of 412,000 supply transactions; and processing 574 critical Aircraft on the Ground requests.

If that isn’t enough, they also have installed Level Five Up-Armor on 220 HUMVEEs and crew modification kits to the inside of, and armor and slats to the outside of, several hundred Stryker vehicles. Not bad for a rank heavy, command and control cell.

TF AVCRADs success, however, isn’t only in what has been accomplished in



A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter is offloaded from a transport ship where it is assembled for service. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Iris Cruz-Story, TF AVCRAD.



A company of AH-64 Apache attack helicopters sit on the dock awaiting assembly for service. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Melanie Hughes, Kentucky Army National Guard.

the aviation logistics and maintenance areas, but also in how well this group of Soldiers from 16 different states has been able to come together as a unit. It's one thing to deploy thousands of miles from home with a unit that has been together for a long period of time, but to do it as a unit that has just been formed is something else altogether.

One of the first things you notice when you walk into any of the work areas for TF AVCRAD is that easy familiarity and sense of friendship the Soldiers have with each other, as if they really have been together for years. It makes it hard to believe they have only been together for about 12 months.

In the supply shop it's easy to see that these Soldiers have adapted well to each other and their surroundings. Pictures of families, friends, and favorite sports teams are on display over workbenches.

"We're fortunate in this shop because we have a very good working relationship, very good rapport with each other," said Sgt. 1st Class Sharon Norton, TF AVCRAD supply coordinator from Joppa, Maryland. One of the best things about this deployment, said Norton, has been the people. "I really can say the people, some people around here really keep it going, keep you laughing, keep you motivated; really good people, contractors and Soldiers."

The creation of this "fifth" AVCRAD and subsequent deployment has also been beneficial to the Soldiers as a skill



Members of TF AVCRAD perform maintenance on a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. Photo provided by TF AVCRAD.

enhancement experience. "My level of experience is definitely a lot higher than it was," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Gray, aircraft power plant repairer from Bel Air, Maryland,

"World's of experience have been gained here, immeasurable amounts of experience," Gray said. "You see things break here that you're not going to see back home. So everything you learn here will be invaluable tenfold back home."

Those same sentiments were expressed by Staff Sgt. Scottie Davis, avionics systems repairer from Baltimore, Maryland. "You'll definitely take this experience back to your unit and pass it on to your junior Soldiers," he said.

The Soldiers that make up TF AVCRAD will eventually return to their respective states and units and their lives will once again become routine. It is doubtful, however, that anyone will forget what they have accomplished or the experience they have gained as part of TF AVCRAD.

HQ ADMRU will resume their role as the command and control cell for the four AVCRADs forever changed by this experience as the "fifth" AVCRAD. They have definitely proven they are much more than that "graduate level organization" of years past. Not only will Aviation know who they are and what they do but so will the rest of the National Guard.

Maryland Guardsman Represents U.S. In World CISM Games

By 1st Lt. Wayde Minami, 175th Wing Public Affairs

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Jim Foard, 175th Wing Public Affairs



Tech. Sgt. Latisha R. Moulds

Tech. Sgt. Latisha R. Moulds was one of only 23 servicemembers selected from across the armed forces to compete as part of the U.S. team at the 2007 Conseil International du Sport Militaire World Games in Hyderabad, India.

Participating in the CISM World Games had long been a goal for Moulds, who represented the U.S. in the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash and 100-meter relay events, taking fourth place in her heat in the 100-meter.

"It's something I've been working towards for the past five years," she said.

Moulds began her military career as an Army Reservist in 1995 but transferred to

the Air National Guard two-and-a-half years later. She has been assigned to the Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Wing since 2006, where she works full time as an Air National Guard recruiter.

"This is just another example of the incredible quality of today's Guard members," said Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill, the adjutant general of Maryland. "It takes top-flight individuals to make up a world-class organization, and Sgt. Moulds is proof positive that the Maryland National Guard is composed of just those types of people."

In addition to her work as a recruiter, Moulds coaches girls' high school track.

Commissary For All Military Members

Continued from page 3

Programs such as Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers, Single Marine Program and Navy Liberty as well as the Air Force First Term Airmen centers, get personal tours of commissaries, win commissary gift certificates funded by industry, and earn Bonus Bucks for their programs through competition for the best tours and events during the month-long event.

Another customer favorite, the annual May worldwide case lot sale, also takes place at nearly all commissaries. Customers can find savings of up to 50 percent over regular prices at case lot sales. It's an experience difficult to describe – and impossible to duplicate. Case lot sale dates and locations are available on DeCA's official Web site at <http://www.commissaries.com>.

The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a



Commissary merchandise lines the floors of the warehouse.

safe and secure shopping environment. Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a five percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones. Shoppers save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared to commercial prices – savings worth about \$3,000 annually for a family of four.



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Lower Shore Chapter, Salisbury
410-749-5331
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Maryland Poison Control
1-800-222-1222

Websites

Maryland Government Website
www.maryland.gov

Maryland Military Department Website
www.mdmildep.org

Maryland Emergency Management Agency
www.mema.state.md.us

Maryland State Employee Central Payroll Bureau
compnet.comp.state.md.us